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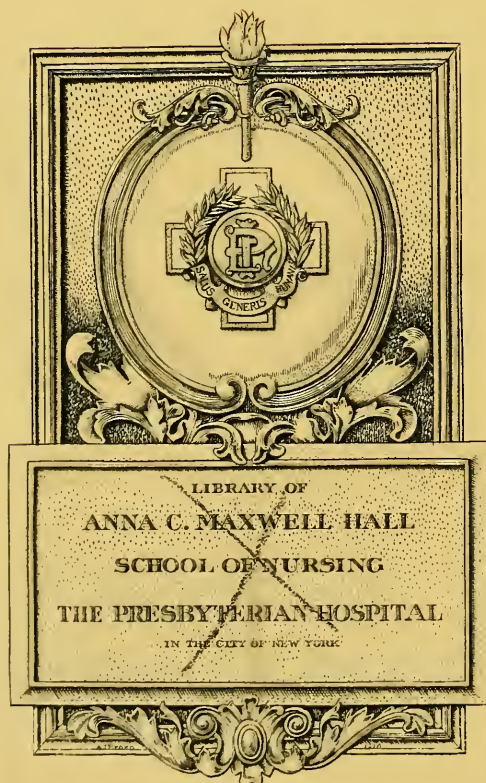
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BELLEVUE

A SHORT HISTORY OF BELLEVUE
HOSPITAL AND OF THE
TRAINING SCHOOLS



PUBLISHED BY THE
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BELLEVUE
PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
DECEMBER, 1915



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Dedicated

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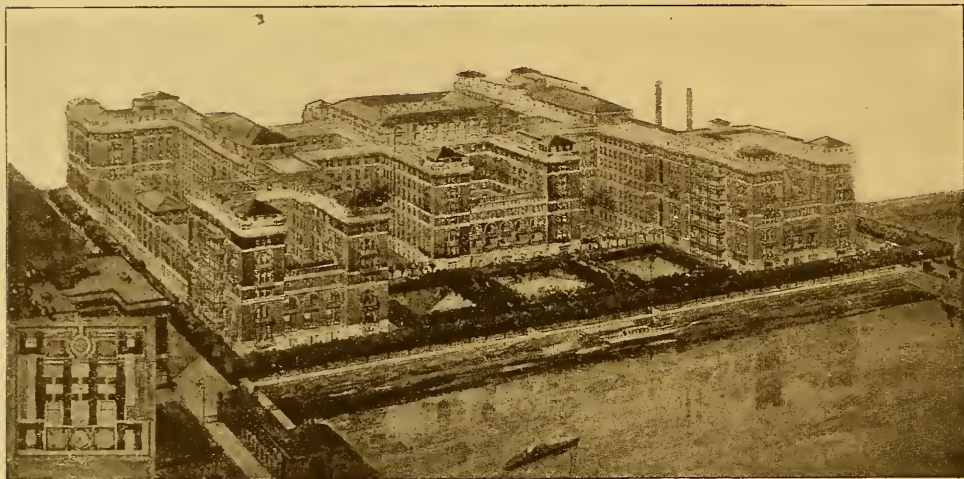
MRS. WILLIAM PRESTON GRIFFIN

and

MRS. WILLIAM HENRY OSBORN

In grateful appreciation of their work
in establishing our Training School.





New Bellevue.

AN ODE TO BELLEVUE.



By
MARY ST. JOHN, R. N.



If your walls could but tell the story,
Of the deeds of those mighty men,
That have traverst the boards of Bellevue's wards,
T'would a wonderful story pen.

It would tell of their work and the efforts
That were made for the human race;
And of each plan that they made to save man,
By striving disease to efface.

Then again it would tell you of others—
Of that band of women who came,
And who saw indeed the people's great need,
For through them sprang Bellevue's fame.

How they spent both their time and their money,
And made a most glorious fight
Until there now stands a monument grand—
A symbol of wisdom and light.

Then again they would speak of the nurses,
Who never once seemed to tire,
But would work with their might both day and night,
To benefit man, their desire.

For this body of earnest, hard workers,
With their heart and soul, and their brain,
Were the part of God's plan found in the van
Of the army, that's lived not in vain.

They would tell how your doors have been opened
To the sick, the sore and the sad,
How the poor and forsaken you've always taken,
And given the best that you've had.

How you've never rebuked nor condemned them
Because they success did not win,
But have unbarred your gate no matter how late,
And always have welcomed them in.

That these walls so soon shall be silenced,
Whose stories must then pass away,
Means a sorrow, this coming to-morrow,
For the ones who know them to-day.

And when in the dust you have been leveled,
Your requiem song has been sung;
In Memory's hall will be found on the wall,
A tablet to Bellevue there hung.



1816

The oldest picture of Bellevue. It is from an engraving, taken from a design on an old Staffordshire platter. The engraving is in the Public Library of New York City.



Bellevue Hospital

Where the City Hall now stands was erected, in 1736, the building known as the "Publick Workhouse and House of Correction of the City of New York."

Here, in a room twenty-five by twenty-three feet, on the upper floor of the building, we find the first trace of Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. John Van Buren was the first medical officer, with a salary of £100 a year, out of which he supplied his own medicines.

This house was occupied until 1796, when a new one was built, directly in the rear of the old building, on what is now the north side of Chambers Street.

In 1794 the State Government represented to the City Government the necessity of providing some place of isolation for persons afflicted with yellow fever. The most eligible place that presented itself was a plot, about five acres in extent, which had once been a part of Kips Bay Farm, and called by its owner Belle Vue.



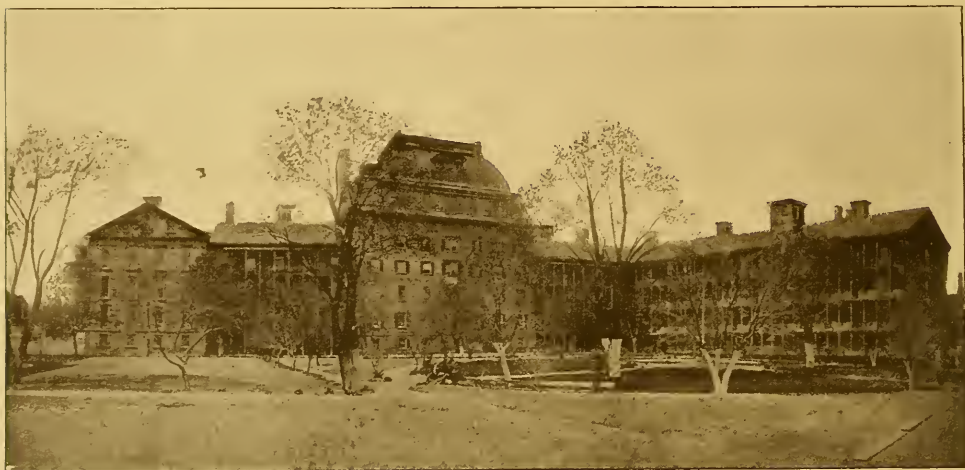
1848.

Thus the history of the first hospital to bear the name Bellevue is to all intents and purposes the history of the epidemics which ravaged the city for eleven years.

Then for five years we do not hear of the place, when it appears on the records as the southern boundary of the plot on which, in 1811, was laid the cornerstone of the new almshouse and hospital, the formal opening of which took place on April 28, 1816.

In 1825 a fever hospital was erected, the first and second stories containing cells where the pauper insane were kept. In this year, also, the reign of the resident physician was begun. Dr. Isaac Wood filled the position for seven years, during which he placed the struggling hospital on its feet, and from that time on it has been known as the Bellevue Hospital. But twenty-two years were yet to elapse before it should take possession of the building which it occupies to-day. In 1848 the almshouse, with all that pertained to it, was removed to Blackwells' Island, and the hospital was transferred to the building vacated by the paupers.

In April, 1855, a wing was added extending along the 28th Street side eastward, and the following year saw the addition of a fourth story to the main building, and a large amphitheatre, so that the main building was then in its external appearance the same as it is to-day.



1860

The first ambulance service in the world was established by Bellevue in 1869.

In 1879 a building, called Sturges Pavilion, was erected by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Osborn.

The Marquand Pavilion was given in 1883.

An Alcoholic Pavilion was built by the city in 1892.

The first unit of the New Bellevue, begun in 1906, and containing the Medical Pavilion A and B, was opened in the fall of 1908.

The Pathological Building and men's dormitory were finished in 1911. The new laundry and the store-room were opened in

September, 1912, while to the south stands the latest addition, Pavilion I and K, and to the east, facing the river, Pavilion L and M.

These two pavilions contain operating rooms, the X-Ray department, the surgical supply rooms, and 700 beds for surgical patients.

On the ground floor of Pavilion I is an amphitheatre seating 300 and used for classes, clinics and demonstrations.

That the work done in Bellevue in recent years has been proportionate to the growth of the plant, is proved by the following statistics:



In 1902 the hospital contained 900 beds, which had been increased to 1,334 in 1913. Officers, Visiting Physicians and Surgeons, House Staff and other employees numbered 556 in 1902, and 1,168 in 1913. 23,780 patients were treated in 1902 as compared with 41,428 in 1913.

In Bellevue the first School for Midwives in this country was founded in 1911, and the first systematic Hospital Social Service organized in 1906.

On another page may be seen the completed Bellevue of the future, and while we regret the passing of the old, we cannot fail to rejoice in the hope and promise of the Bellevue which is to be.





Front of the Hospital,
1915.



Main Entrance.

This railing formed part of the balcony of Federal Hall over which General Washington delivered his first inaugural address, April 30, 1789.



Fountain on the grounds of Bellevue Hospital.



1892.

Sturges Pavilion, now Ward 40.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Osborn.



1893

Marquand Pavilion, now Ward 32

The Marquand Pavilion was the gift of Messrs. F. and H. Marquand, in memory of their brother, Josiah Penfield Marquand.



Ward B 5, Christmas Time.

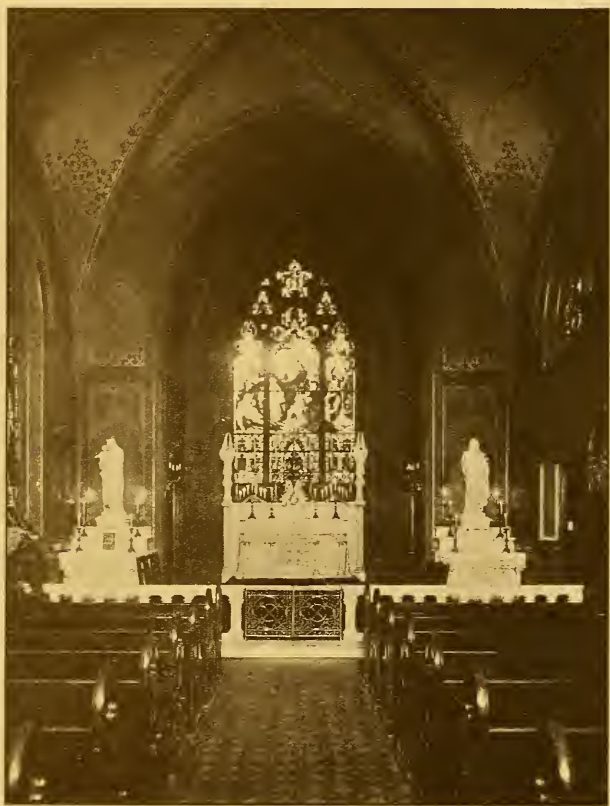


Baby Room of the Maternity Ward.



Episcopal Chapel, Christ the Consoler,
was given by Mrs. R. H. L. Townsend.
It was dedicated April 22, 1889, by the
Rev. Henry Satterlee, rector of Cal-
vary Church.

"After the service Mrs. Townsend, assisted by friends, planted eight ivy plants. Each was expected to be his or her vine, and in performing this duty they were not to forget the privilege of looking inside and helping on the growth of the work so happily begun."



Altar of the Roman Catholic Chapel,
Given by Miss Annie Leary in memory
of her brother.



Old Ambulance.



New Ambulance.

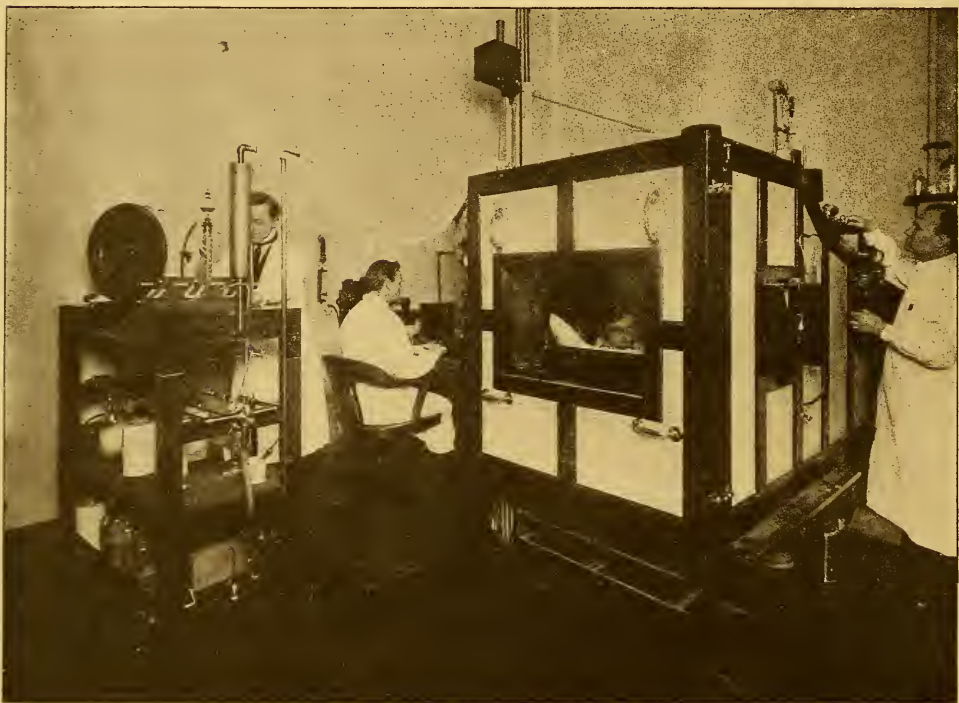


Barnum & Bailey giving a complimentary exhibition for
the patients of Bellevue.

B E L L E V U E



Ward in the new surgical wing, opened November, 1915.



Calorimeter.



Human Heat

A machine for determining exactly how much food any person needs in order to keep his weight stationary, is now in operation at Bellevue Hospital, in New York City. At present it is applied only to persons who are ill, especially typhoid fever patients; but its further application to the struggles of healthy people against growing fat, is probable. With the facts obtained from this machine, doctors can provide a diet for patients in the hospital that will keep up their strength all through an illness, avoiding the two dangers of overworking the organs by supplying too much food or of weakening the organs by not providing sufficient nourishment.

The old treatment of typhoid was to supply food very sparingly to the patient, leaving him weak and emaciated at the end of the fever. Fatal results were feared if the patient was given much nourishment. The most modern theory, however, is that, with extreme care and expert knowledge in the selection and administration of food, it is safe to provide enough nourishment to keep up the patient's weight and strength. Scientific knowl-

edge of foods, combined with understanding of the bodily requirements, is essential. The new machine gives a full and exact report of the bodily requirements instead of the rough estimates that have prevailed. It is called respiration calorimeter, and its duty is to report how much heat is manufactured by the body of a patient. Food is turned into heat by the body, and it is already known exactly how much heat will be manufactured by the body out of an ounce of any common article of food.

Thus, if the doctor finds out how much heat is being manufactured by the body of a typhoid fever patient, he can easily figure out how much food—to the fraction of an ounce—must be supplied to keep up that heat production without drawing on the reserve forces of the patient and causing a gradual weakening. The digestive organs may be expected to handle the proper amount of food readily—provided, of course, the right kind of food is selected as well as the right quantity. Any extra food would overtax the digestive organs.

The respiration calorimeter consists of a big box, in which the patient is placed for two or three hours, with a set of instruments that will record every vestige of heat produced inside the box. Arrangements are made to keep it at an even and comfortable temperature and to supply good ventilation. The record will show a heat production at the rate of a certain number of calories a day, weight and size making much difference between normal individuals.





Old Training School.



Training School

On January 26, 1872, a number of ladies met at the home of Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler to organize a committee to visit the public hospitals of the City and County of New York, and report upon their condition to the State Board of Charities.

For many months sixty of the most intelligent women to be found in the city daily passed hours in the wards of Bellevue, carefully considering its conditions and consulting the highest hospital authorities.

As a result of their report it was decided that no permanent reform could be effected under the actual system of nursing then existing.

The women then employed were brought from Blackwell's Island, where they had been sent as vagrants, or paupers, or prisoners, and many could neither read or write.

Later in the year a sub-committee was organized to propose a plan for a training school for nurses.

Mr. William H. Osborn was chairman of this committee, and Mrs. William Preston Griffin was one of its members.

The first step to be taken was to learn what a training school was, and as it was considered important that the information should be obtained at headquarters, Dr. W. Gill Wylie, then a house surgeon at Bellevue, offered to go to Europe at his own expense and bring back a report.

Dr. Wylie was one of the first men in his profession to assist in this work, while many, who realized that a reform in hospital service was necessary, argued that a pauper hospital was no place for a refined and intelligent woman.

One distinguished surgeon said, "I do not believe in the success of a training school for nurses at Bellevue Hospital. The patients, as a general thing, are such a difficult class to deal with, and the service is so hard that the conscientious, intelligent woman you are looking for will lose heart and hope long before the two years are over."

Four members of the Medical Board to whom the committee owed a debt of gratitude were Dr. James R. Wood, Dr. Austin Flint, Dr. Stephen Smith, and Dr. James M. Markoe.

Dr. Wylie returned from Europe in the autumn of 1872, bringing an interesting report of the Schools in England, France

B E L L E V U E

and Germany, and, above all, a letter of encouragement and advice from Florence Nightingale.

From the information obtained by Dr. Wylie, and from other sources, a paper was prepared stating the object of the work proposed and appealing to the public of New York for funds to



New Training School.



Library of the Training School.

establish the School. The project was received with enthusiasm, and in six weeks \$22,385.00 were contributed.

From the Commissioners of the Board of Charities a reluctant consent was obtained to nurse five wards at Bellevue, the committee defraying all expense beyond what was paid under the old system. In March, 1873, a house was hired in the vicinity of the hospital, as a home for the nurses, and a circular was issued inviting pupils to apply. At the end of several weeks six pupils were obtained, and Sister Helen, of The All Saints Sisterhood in London, became Superintendent. At the end of the first year the house staff ventured to point out to their superiors the

improved condition of the nursing service, and gradually these gentlemen became convinced that their patients recovered sooner and that the deaths after operations were less frequent than formerly.

During the second year the work was extended to other wards, the applications from would-be pupils increased, and at the close of the second year the first class graduated.

In May, 1876, Sister Helen returned to England, and Miss Eliza Perkins, of Norwich, Connecticut, was placed in charge.

Of Miss Perkins it has been said, "She studied the character and abilities of her pupils, knew the position each woman was adapted to fill, and, as class after class graduated, she sent them far and wide over the country to carry the results of their education into hospitals and homes."

In 1888 Miss Perkins resigned and her place was filled by her assistant, Miss Agnes S. Brennan, under whose admirable fidelity and trained intelligence the School continued to develop. During Miss Brennan's term of office Miss Carrie J. Brink was appointed Assistant Superintendent, and since that time has been closely associated with the work of the School. Miss Brink is at present Superintendent of Nurses.

Miss Brennan, after fourteen years' continuous service as Superintendent, resigned in May, 1902, and Miss Jane A. Delano

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succeeded her. Four years later Miss Delano, for personal reasons, presented her resignation, which was accepted most reluctantly by the Trustees of the Hospital and the Managers of the School. In February, 1907, Miss Annie Goodrich, a graduate of the New York Hospital, and a woman of large experience in executive work was chosen General Superintendent of Training Schools, the nursing in Fordham and Harlem Hospitals, in addition to the Bellevue service, being under her supervision.

In 1910 Miss Goodrich was appointed State Inspector of Training Schools, and Miss Clara D. Noyes was called from St. Luke's, New Bedford, to succeed her. Miss Noyes is a Johns Hopkins graduate, and having had part of her training under our Mrs. Robb, was welcomed as a member of the Bellevue family, and for five years has labored unceasingly for the welfare of our School.

At present the staff of workers consists of 133 graduate nurses, 111 student nurses, and 37 affiliating nurses.

B E L L E V U E



Demonstration Room at Training School.

Mills Training School



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On Christmas Day, 1887, Mr. D. O. Mills presented to the Department of Public Charities and Correction a sum of money to erect and establish a school for the training of male nurses.

The Commissioners set aside a plot in the southeast corner of the Bellevue grounds, and by December, 1888, the building was completed. Five male wards were assigned to the care of these pupils, and until the first class was graduated, one of the women nurses had charge of each ward.

Men of character and ability engaged in this work, and the experiment was so successful that gradually the entire male side of the hospital was under their care. The last class graduated in 1911, and altogether 438 men held diplomas entitling them to practice nursing under the rules of the State Board of Regents. A considerable number chose this training as preliminary to the study of medicine, and are now physicians.

The majority, however, are members of their Alumni Association, which is located in New York and supplies the constant demand for male nurses.

A School for Male Attendants has now completed its third year, and these young men have become a valuable supplement to the nursing staff.

A number of the graduates are employed at Bellevue, several have entered a Training School to qualify as nurses, and others are employed in private work.



Osborn Hall.



Osborn Hall

In 1878 a house located at 426 East 26th Street was purchased by Mrs. William Henry Osborn, and leased to the Board of Managers of the Bellevue Training School for Nurses. This was known as the Nurses' Home, and for more than thirty years continued to be a place of residence for the pupils of the School.

On May 24, 1909, the new building provided by the city was occupied by the pupils, and the work of remodelling 426 was begun. An adjoining lot was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Church Osborn, and on this was erected a building six stories in height, perfect in every detail of finish and equipment, and, together with the original building, appropriately furnished as a club house for the graduate nurses.

A restaurant seating nearly one hundred is patronized by the many workers in this vicinity, and guests of the house.

The Assembly Room is well adapted for our meetings, concerts—and a stage can be easily erected for the little plays and minstrel shows given each winter.

A well equipped laundry is much appreciated by all.



Reception Room of Osborn Hall.

The Registry is located here, and is thus made accessible to doctors visiting the hospital, as well as for the nurses.

This completed structure designed by Mr. and Mrs. William Church Osborn as a memorial to Mrs. William Henry Osborn, was placed in charge of the Bellevue Alumnæ Association in April, 1911. Two years later a wing was added, making the capacity 180 guests, consisting not only of nurses, but other self-supporting women.

With one voice all can say that the wish to make Osborn Hall a home for the graduates has been more than realized.



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